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1816

A H Campbell

Mrs Doubleday

ROYAL INVESTIGATION;

OR,

AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS

Containing the Acquittal of H. R. H. the P——ss of W——s.

OFFICIALLY COMPILED

BY

A SERJEANT AT LAW.

——Such superior merit
Must have a thousand foes, the constant mark
Of envy's poison'd darts.

FRANKLIN.

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TO THE MOST NOBLE

The Marchioness Townshend,

&c. &c. &c.

MADAM,

I am illy qualified to write a dedication, being unschooled in flattery; but though the talent is denied me of sacrificing, with grace, at the Shrine of Vanity, I feel I am not unqualified to make the offerings of truth to the Shrine of Virtue.

To You, therefore, Madam, do I presume to address this little volume. Your long and tried friendship to H. R. H. the Princess of Wales, and the near and dear interest you take in her welfare, leads me to hope you will peruse it with satisfaction.

I have the honour to be,

Madam,

Your Ladyship's most obedient and

most humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

Audi alteram partem.

WITHOUT leisure to be a politician, or inclination to be a partisan, I have been aroused from my solemn routine of studies, into a compilation of the following pages, by motives that will explain themselves.

The charges on which my refutation is grounded, are to be found in an anonymous pamphlet published by my publisher. And as it may appear somewhat singular that two works so opposite in their notions should issue from the same press, I think it well to tell the public why it has so happened.

It appeared to me, that the ends of justice could not be better fulfilled than by opposing arguments. I have, therefore, made the Town my jury; transformed Diogenes into the character of counsel for the plantiff; and hanging my own gown and wig immediately

before me, undertake the cause of the defendant.

But I argue without virulence; and as it is not impossible that the pamphlet in question may stir up other and more merciless opponents, I took the trouble to explain to Mr. Hughes my motives in wishing him to give this volume to the public; which are, that as he has been the channel of communicating to the public the ACCUSATION, it would be but justice in him to publish the ACQUITTAL; that both might fall into the same hands.

He acceded to my request.

Gentle Readers!

Peruse this case with candor; weigh it with impartiality; decide upon it with justice!

And when you have done so, I will look up to the expressive eye of beauty, steal confidence from the approving smile that ornaments her lip, and collect in dulcet tones, emanating from her guileless heart, the verdict of

ACQUITTAL.

MOTTO.

I will be hang'd if some eternal villain,
Some busy and insinuating rogue,
Some cogging cozening slave, to get some office
Hath not devised this slander.....
.....
..... Hell gnaw his bones!
Why should he call her ——— ?—who keeps her
company?
What place?—what time?—what form?—what
likelihood?
O, Heaven! that such companions thoud'st un-
fold,
And put in every honest hand a whip,
To lash the rascal naked thro' the world,
Even from the East to the West!

SHAKSPEARE.

ROYAL INVESTIGATION.

TO vindicate the insulted honor of an unprotected female, and to direct the public indignation where to fall, is a generous and noble undertaking; but when the mask of humanity is borrowed to disguise calumny or malevolence, the act is diabolical, and our contempt should be proportioned to the infamy of the offence.

I have read various pamphlets detailing, as it is called, the monstrous injuries heaped on an illustrious female, by and with the consent of her R——l consort; who, if not the original mover, is by some stated to be the aider and abettor of her vile calumniators; and by others the least violent, he is accused of an ungenerous apathy and unbecoming disregard to general censure.

How falsely these gentlemen, who all profess themselves to be uninfluenced otherwise than by that honest

freedom which permits an Englishman to arraign, if not to reform the *extravagances* of his superiors—maintain their leading position does not require much discernment to detect; and we readily feel, that on a subject which has been studiously involved in mystery, no man is enabled clearly to state facts, when no official documents have ever been laid before the public.

I know that an eminent bookseller in W—— Street was entrusted with a manuscript, discovering the *official result* of these investigations, which it was

thought proper at the instance of Lord T——w to make, not into the conduct of P——ss of W——s, but into the reports tending to misrepresent her conduct, and that the same was printed.

I say I know this fact, because I am acquainted with a gentleman who possesses the pamphlet; but how he came by it is another question, as the work was printed with all possible regard to privacy, and the most jealous circumspection.

It would be equally hazardous to

state a *positive* reason for its suppression, as there can be little doubt that the excited minds of the public would eagerly have flown to *such* a gratification of their curiosity; possibly it was feared that the publication would have been deemed indelicate, as coming from a *professional* individual, unsanctioned by the R—l parties to whom it alluded; possibly, the change of M———y, which happened about this time, occasioned the suppression, which might otherwise have militated against the splendid visions this change opened to the view of the (*now* right honorable) writer.

Be that as it may, the world has been disappointed; and a herd of scribblers, taking advantage of this ungratified curiosity, have filled pamphlets with a series of fiction, which, under imposing titles, and still more imposing prices, they have forced on the infatuated multitude.

It is somewhat singular, however, that in compounding this farrago of impertinences, the several artificers have been uniformly guided by the same receipt.

" *Pity for the injuries of the virtuous and*

illustrious wife, has been invariably commingled with unqualified expressions of contempt for the supinely unjust conduct of the august husband."

It may be natural to enquire, why I have chosen to add another to the pamphlets written on this occasion, when I admit it to be a subject on which no one is fully qualified to judge.

To which I shall reply, that some circumstances have met my private ear, with which the world at large are certainly unacquainted; but I do not pro-

pose vehemently to insist that I am enabled thereby to prove who is the innocent, who the guilty party. Nor should I ever, I believe, have thought of committing my sentiments to paper, but from the singularity of an occurrence which took place on the last Birth-day.

I had squeezed myself into the immense crowd that lined every purlieu of Saint James's, and was carried with the mob towards the garden-gate—not I will confess without some anxiety to see whether the P—— and P——ss of

W——s would appear together at the drawing room.

Her H—— was the first to drive up; it was *then* uncertain whether the P—— meant to come, and the loud plaudits of the crowd fully evinced the party they espoused.

Being more desirous to witness than to join in what was passing, I stood an inactive gazer on the scene before me, when I was accosted by an elderly gentleman: the greetings were then over, and the crowd dispersing.

"You are not *fashionably loyal*, sir—" said the stranger abruptly.

I looked full into the countenance of my new acquaintance at this singular address, and could read in his manner and appearance strong lineaments of intelligence, fashion, and accomplishment, thrown into the back ground by the more prominent features of cynical reserve.

Finding me silent, he went on.

"I am no flatterer, sir!"

" So I perceive,"—replied I smilingly —" but why doubt my loyalty?"

" Because you do not join in the re-" joicings of the people. You, I sup-" pose—like others—are *perfectly con-*" *vinced* that the P——ss has been " wronged?"

The noise of wheels interrupted us at this moment..... It was the P——!

As soon as the bustle had again subsided, I turned towards my singular acquaintance; he looked in my face

with a sort of inquisitiveness that seemed to repeat his question—

" You, I suppose, like others, are " *perfectly convinced* the P——ss has been " wronged ?"

" Arguing on the grand basis of our constitution," said I, " I do: the laws " admit all to be innocent until they " are found guilty."

" Certainly," he replied; " laws " must have their boundaries; and the " distinction is a good one between the

" culprit standing at the bar of the Old " Bailey, and his jury; but in a court of " honor, sir, it is not enough that the " evidence of guilt is incomplete. In " that court, evidence of innocence " should be full and clear. There, no " law quibbles can assuage the wounded " feelings of a husband, nor eloquence " silence the alarm of suspicion *fairly* " awakened."

We were now in the Mall, and continued our conversation as we slowly paced the gravel walk towards Buckingham House, myself so strangely impressed

with the nervous manner of my companion, that while I hesitated to reply, he proceeded.

" You doubtlessly observed the com-
" placent smile and elegant condescension
" with which the P—— returned the
" respectful salute of those well-dressed
" persons who stood near the entrance.

" Sir! there is witchery in that
" smile..... its magic has been felt by
" J——s and every other of his H. R. H.'s
" tradesmen. It was felt throughout the
" northern tour lately taken by H. R. H.

" He saw himself adored whereever he " presented himself; and so powerfully " did he appreciate the affections of the " people, that he enthusiastically ex- " claimed before the mayor and corpora- " tion of Liverpool,

" *This is the proudest day of my life.*

" But what says Hamlet ?.....

.....

"——At least 'tis so in Denmark !"

I would have interrupted him, but he continued ;

" Now mark me well. Even at this
" moment when his appearance at court
" with the P——ss will give joy to
" every heart; while the public odium
" is beginning to subside with this late
" though ostensible proof of his con-
" viction in his wife's innocence; while
" his smile is eargely coveted by the
" whole circle of our nobles; while the
" P——ss is mistaking the affability
" with which he addresses her before
" the whole court for a proof of re-
" turning confidence; he secretly ex-
" ults in the d--y of his heart at the
" insult he has offered to her feelings,

" by *forbidding* her to dress at W——k
" house, or to pass through the gardens
" of C——n house."..... He arose,
adding,

" I must now take leave; but eer
" you quit the park, let me exhort you
" to return to the court-yard we have
" just left; you will find it littered with
" royal equipages, highly varnished and
" pompously emblazoned; liveries glit-
" tering with gold, and feathered hats
" waving to the breeze..... the gor-
" geous and expensive trappings of
" state for which our pockets are ran-

" sacked; but all others are merely " gingerbread baubles when com- " pared with the chasteness of design, " perfect execution, and magnificent " ensemble of the H—— A——'s equi- " pages. These and other princely ac- " complishments are the current dross " His H—— exchanges with us for our " stirling gold, and his smile the Circe " which forbids complaint!"

" You are cynically severe," I replied, " on either party. You blow " hot and cold in the same breath."

" Not so," he rejoined; " I dis-

" claim the character of a rigid philoso-
" pher; I am merely a man of the
" world, who cannot persuade himself
" that *rank is an apology either for female*
" *libertinism, or splendid profligacy.*"

With these words, he bowed politely, and passed on down the Bird-cage Walk.

As to myself, I retired homeward full of my strange adventure, which opened so extensive a field to conjecture, that I was soon lost in the labyrinth of my own reflections. Resolving to reduce

them to some method, I sat down the next morning to my writing table, and pursuing the subject, at length produced the following result, to which I have affixed this *prefatory postscript.*

The Argument.

In the arrangement before me, I do not propose to retrace the youthful foibles of H. R. H.—'tis an invidious task, "*more honoured in the breach than the observance:*" much less am I inclined to soil my paper with many strictures on the ingratitude of the self-created gentleman, the quondam silversmith of H. R. H.: that subject has too much occupied the public attention, when it ought merely to have provoked the public indignation.

I shall be brief.

Mr. J—— can only class among the lowest of the contemptible. As a tradesman he enjoyed the patronage of his R—— employer. It is certain, he thought his fortune made by the distinction; and his weak head was unequal to sustain the glare his heated fancy opened in perspective.

He commenced gentleman by purchasing a borough; and giddy, with the condescending affability with which he had always been treated by H. R. H.—

he impudently dared to offer the nomination of his colleague to his R—— benefactor.

But the P——, with that noble distinction which marks his elevated station, from that moment discarded his presumptuous servant. To the extent of his promises he had patronised the silversmith; but nothing less than the prolific brain of this infatuated man could, for a moment, have created hopes that he was to become—in his new character—the *friend* and *companion* of the P——.

Yet on the failure of his wild-goose schemes, when Mr. J——, like Icarus, fell from the height to which he had too daringly aspired; when he found his NEW GENTILITY was the subject of ridicule instead of admiration, he not only attributes the consequent misfortunes of his own folly to the P——, but dares, with unparalleled effrontery, to tax him in a scurrilous pamphlet with a forgetfulness of the *great* obligations the *great* Mr. J—— had heaped upon his master.

In short, when the P——'s debts

were placed for investigation in the hands of certain commissioners appointed to the office, Mr. J—— admitted his profit to be twenty-five thousand pounds, from which the commissioners deducted six thousand pounds, being a balance profit of nineteen thousand pounds in favor of the claimant. To this oppose the trifling services of Mr. J—— in having lent the P——, on an emergency certainly, between fifteen and sixteen hundred pounds at one time, and four hundred and twenty pounds at another; and the reader will exactly see the account current of obli-

gation between the master and the man.

Good Mr. J——! had you not strayed beyond your capital; had you not lived beyond your income; had you not formed parliamentary speculations without either the talent or the purse to support their fulfilment—you might still have been good Mr. J—— the silversmith, a thriving mechanic, an useful citizen, and a respectable man!

If it be true though, that Mr. J—— has cleared two thousand pounds by the sale of a pamphlet for which he de-

served chastisement instead of reward, we must admit, that his wits have befriended him at last, and that although he could not apply them advantageously in the H—— of C———, he knew exactly how to feel the pulses of his compeers, and turn their mania to his own account.

On the stale grounds of the P——'s amours, it would be ridiculous to expatiate. *Princes* are *men*, however dignified by birth; and education, by refining the sensibilities of the heart, exposes them more than the common

orders of society to the fatalities of love.

Who lost Mark Anthony the world?

Woman.

Who occasioned Troy a ten years' seige?

Woman.

Who chained Hercules to the distaff?

Woman.

But to be more modern in my application; one of the most celebrated among kings, one of the most distinguished among soldiers, was one of the most weak among women.

The glory of his nation, the terror of his enemies; wise in council, undaunted in the field; Henry the Fourth of France; was the slave, the plaything of a woman. And I will venture to assert that there never was a great or good man, who did not more or less subject himself to the capricious bondage of some lovely tyrant.

But does it follow, because the wanderings of the heart have led his H. R.H. into certain peccadillos which would die unnoticed in persons of less elevated rank, that his heart should be so *conveniently moulded* as to be susceptible of ANY impression the policy of the kingdom may deem it expedient to imprint thereon?

It has indeed been argued, that, "unfortunately for the comfort and domestic happiness of princes and princesses, policy has proscribed their marrying with any but of their own

" high rank; and generally without
" any previous knowledge of each other.
" A policy which is one of the greatest
" drawbacks upon the happiness of their
" high station.

" But it is a circumstance to com-
" miserate: we have often seen the bad
" effects of that policy *upon the morality*
" of the lives of princes, and sometimes
" even of princesses, which should teach
" us, that it is rather the effect of their
" situation than of any particular immo-
" rality in the particular persons who
" have been guilty of such indiscretions."

If this position be admitted, and it is certainly rational, must not every well thinking mind shudder at the following pictures of the relative situations described. They are drawn by AN ENGLISHMAN; and I hold them up to public reprobation.

"It is possible that the next heir "apparent may be a prince inoculated "(for through your Royal Highness, "he will not have such qualities natu- "rally) with the true spirit of dissolute- "ness; filled with base and bad passions, "unmindful of the duties of his high

" rank, and low, and corrupt, and de-
" bauched in all his pleasures: let us
" suppose him with a pulpy bloated
" person, at once the voluptuary and the
" sot; he sees a theatrical female, who
" shall have been the delight and ad-
" miration of the town as a singer and
" actress too, but whose sweet voice is
" broken by perpetually and copiously
" drinking, and whose elegant and beau-
" tiful person is destroyed by the ruin-
" ous effects of strong liquors, with a
" polluted stomach and a tainted breath;
" such an actress your Royal Highness
" may remember lately died. The next

" heir apparent, inflamed by appetites
" grossly indulged, conceives what he
" may call a freak for such a woman.
" The bargain is struck, they meet, they
" gormandize, they get drunk; all is
" wild licence and rank obscenity: the
" choicest wines no longer stimulate;
" noyeau succeeds; brandy next; till the
" overgorged beasts wallow unwieldy
" on the floor, and nature, over-charged,
" labours under the load of abominable
" excess, till she relieves herself.

" Noisome as this picture is, it may
" happen; and if such a Prince should

" have a jeweller to credit him, a present
" in diamonds, in value near 6,000l, at
" the end of ten days may terminate
" the disgusting and foul connection.

" But imagine, that during the con-
" tinuance mere instinct, goaded by
" such intestine heat, should claim her
" share of gratification, and a child were
" the calamitous result; lost as such a
" father had been to the burnings of all
" shame, so deeply sunk in infamy, yet
" if the child lived and the public be-
" came anxious to know the legitimacy
" of its birth, would he dare the ven-

" geance and indignation of the public,
" by persisting that all communication
" should be withheld? I should think no
" such unadvised refusal would take
" place."

It would be an ill compliment to the head and heart of the writer of the foregoing paragraph were I to deprive it of a *single infamy* by detailing it otherwise than verbatim. The application is not to be misunderstood. It is clearly meant as a libel on the P——. It is, I believe, a libel, although neither true nor analogous; but whatever his

views may be, God forbid he should succeed in *whitening* one character by *blackening* the other. I hope to shew that the P——ss has been wronged, sorely wronged; and to do so without attaching more blame to the P—— than the nature of his offence, and that is quite bad enough, absolutely incurs.

The circumstances under which the fatal marriage of the P—— and P——ss of W——s was brought about, are well known to every one. On the part of H. R. H. convenience was certainly the ground-work of consent. The P——ss

might have been urged by warmer sentiments. The splendid levees of the P—— of W——, previously held with all the magnificence appropriate to His R—l descent, had afforded repeated opportunities to ambassadors and foreigners of distinction to admire the elegance, suavity, and dignified graces of H. R. H.'s manners. The continent echoed with his praises, merited as they were general. Nothing, therefore, can be more natural than the supposition that a young and blooming P——ss would receive with almost maddening admiration the advances of this all accomplished P——;

but it is painful to relate, that while these sweet emotions were the hopeful companions of her virgin bosom, the P—— was employed most inauspiciously for her future happiness.

A certain lovely, though not very young C——, was *supposed* to have won him to her arms; and when the R—l bride arrived, this favorite lady was chosen to arrange her person for her first public appearance.

"If the P—— had meant fairly to-
"wards his intended bride, would he

" have permitted this adultress, reeking " from his bed, to have been her most " immediate attendant?"

This is a most pertinent question, asked by an anonymous writer, to which, in the name of the P——, I *must plead guilty*. It was an act at which the most humble individual of the kingdom would blush to think on!

Such, however, was the commencement of their domestic career; and the event which took place nine months after marriage, instead of cementing

their bond of union, rather accelerated the separation, which, not long after, took place.

I mean the birth of the P——ss Charlotte.

Separate beds are too fashionable in high life, to be an object of surprise—I, therefore, lament, rather than wonder, that this summary species of divorce was so soon resorted to, by the R—l pair; and still more so, that it was scarcely preparatory to a more serious estrangement, and separate establishments.

The P——ss retired to Black-heath, devoting her youth to retirement, and burying those talents which were cultivated to adorn society in the solitary domestic amusements of a recluse.

And here let me proudly say, her virtues have risen superior to her persecution.

Ever mindful of the *peculiar delicacy* of her unhappy lot, H. R. H. studiously conducted herself with such amiable, unrepining fortitude, as did and still does claim the sympathy and admira-

tion, not only of the nation, but of the world: yet as our immortal Poet says,

Be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou
Shalt not escape calumny.

Slander suddenly invaded her tranquillity even in this privacy. A calumny the most bold, wanton, and unwarrantable, was circulated to her dishonor, accusing her of repeated infidelities, without, however, adducing one atom of proof in support of these barbarous charges.

It is, however, in favor of the P——ss

—at least I so view it—that on a question of so much importance to the nation, and during the lengthened period it has agitated the public mind, only one solitary individual from the herd of garretteers who hunt after novelties,

Watchful as the fowler, when his prey will spring,

has attempted to urge any thing like fact derogatory to the P——s's honor.

The compiler of these visionary charges shields his person from public detestation, under the assumed name of Diogenes; and although he professes to

be guided by the most disinterested principles, and to act on the true claims of justice; his anecdotes are envenomed and so daringly bold, that, unsupported as they are beyond *his assertion*, and contradicted as they are by *public opinion*, it is matter of wonder to me how such temerity has been tolerated.

But it is shameful to relate, that this scandalous production, reprobated as it is by every body, is bought by every body, and that I know a large edition of it was expended in the course of three or four days.

With respect to myself, I confess I have read it with the most marked indignation. In the character of a cynic philosopher, he relates stories that nobody ever heard of before—stories, that, like elemental fires, flash before us, and leave us trembling with horror and amazement.

As these charges become the especial subject of my labors, and as these supposed crimes have alone been alleged by this writer, I shall select particular passages from this TALE OF WONDER, and reply to them, respectively, as I proceed.

1st. " It happened unfortunately " that Mrs. George"—*mutato nomine*— " had been educated abroad, and im- " bibed all the levity and flippancy of " manners, which are characteristic of " foreign customs, not untinctured with " a certain *want of delicacy*, to the pos- " session of which English minds are " invariably wedded.

" It is well known, as the novelty of " beauty wears off in the new made " bride, she steps, progressively, from " the stilts of divinity, and appears the " unadorned emblem of earthly imper-

" fections;—the dying embers of the " hymeneal torch too suddenly expire, " when unfanned by those *chaste refine-* " *ments*, which can alone improve upon " or heighten the pure enjoyments of " love. Satiety is often followed by " disgust; and it is an alarming fact, " that the infidelity of the husband *will* " beget the infidelity of the wife.

" At all events, twelve months had " scarcely made their evolution, ere the " apostate husband returned to the " welcome arms of a former mistress, " leaving his young wife to the cheer- " less comforts of a solitary bed."

I believe it to be perfectly understood, that the P——'s reasons for this separation were never exposed to the knowledge of any unless some very particular friend, who has well preserved the secret entrusted to his charge.

The P——'s manners are confessedly the most elegantly refined of any man's in Europe, and notwithstanding the infamous portraiture that has been made of his person and excesses, I have no doubt of the perfect delicacy of his sentiments and opinions on all points. But it is possible that H. R. H. having

been compelled to confine his views of men and manners to this kingdom, may have formed those of other countries on the standard of his own.

All who have travelled must know, that every nation has its peculiar forms, customs, and habits: insomuch, that actions perfectly decorous at one court would be considered unpardonably indelicate at another.

Modesty is in the mind: and indulgencies which grow up with us from the cradle, and which we see practised by

our companions daily, are no infringements on the strictest rules of decorum among ourselves, though, perhaps, reprehensible among foreigners.

When Lady Mary Wortley Montague was among the Turks in quality of Ambassadress, her rank and sex afforded her opportunities of delineating many of the customs of that jealous people, which had previously been denied to all travellers.

Among other things, she recounts two curious anecdotes on female modes-

ty, which I shall endeavor to give my reader.

On being admitted to the public baths of Sophia, to which no man can possibly intrude under the forfeiture of his life, she witnessed a scene more voluptuous than the most impassioned fancy could pourtray, yet strictly conformable with instinctive modesty.

Groupes of females reclined on luxuriant sofas in every varied attitude, just as they had risen from the bath: those of rank were attended by young slaves

of exquisite beauty, from fifteen to eighteen years of age, who were employed, some either in combing the long tresses that wantoned o'er the necks or bosoms of their mistresses; others, in braiding the hair with pearls; others in forming playful ringlets round their beautifully tapered fingers, each unconscious that the least indelicate idea could possibly attach to her situation.

The limbs are so beautifully polished by the constant use of these baths, that, her ladyship adds, if it were the

fashion to go naked, the face would be the least object of attraction.

At another time, in Constantinople, when her ladyship was on a visit with a lady of great quality, and whom she describes as one of the most amiable women she ever knew, and with whom she afterwards contracted the closest friendship, the following conversation took place.

"What libertines you Christian ladies are!" said the lovely infidel, "you are permitted to receive visits

" from as many men as you think pro-
" per, and your laws allow you the un-
" limited use of love and wine."

" You are indeed mistaken," replied her ladyship; " with us it is highly cri-
" minal to listen to, much less to love,
" any other than our husbands."

" Then," she answered with a smile,
" your husbands are great fools to be
" content with so precarious a fidelity.
" Your necks, your eyes, your hands,
" your conversation, are all for the
" public. What, then, do you pretend

" to reserve for your husbands? Par-
" don me, my pretty Sultana," she added, embracing me, " I have a strong
" inclination to believe all you tell me,
" but you would impose impossibilities
" upon me. I know the impurities of
" the infidels; I perceive that you are
" ashamed, and will say no more."

In Europe, the voluptuous indulgencies of an eastern bath are contrary to every sentiment of female purity. Yet each of our fair moralists will unblushingly display her bosom at noon-day, impart the charms of her understanding

to every flatterer around her, and dress at night for the Opera, or other public place, expressly to attract a crowd of coxcombs.

The ladies of a sister kingdom, I mean those of Ireland, are remarkable for the frankness of their manners, their vivacity, and their wit. With an agreeable stranger they are immediately intimate, and will not sometimes hesitate at trifles that ornament a bon-mot. Yet who are more chaste?

A French girl, perfectly well bred

and perfectly virtuous, will tell a gentleman with the utmost sang-froid, that she finds herself echauffée, and must retire to take a lavement.

An English girl would faint at the idea! Yet will she parade Hyde Park in a single muslin petticoat, heedless of the amorous breeze that twines around her finely moulded limbs, and gives their contour to the passing gazer.

A Spanish female thinks it immodest even to expose her person abroad; she therefore throws a black silk petticoat

over her dress, and disguises her face and shape under an immense veil of the same impenetrable materials.

The Chinese bind the feet of their female infants to so small a compass that they are unable to walk when grown up, deeming it improper for a virtuous woman to expose herself in public.

And lastly, let me record the anecdote of Sterne and Madame de Rambouillet; when he, at the lady's desire, pulled the check-string of the carriage,

and assisted her to alight, while she

.....

I could trace many apparent indecencies, called accomplishments, which are the fashionable pursuits of our young female nobility.

Painting, sculpture, botany, are all studies abounding in objects that *might* vitiate the mind; but when the thought is intuitively pure, the most minute researches of a skilful amateur may be pursued in either science without a blush.

If, therefore, the P——ss had merely indulged notions of delicacy, sanctioned by her education, it was barbarous, on that venial offence, to desert her; and I, among many others, am of opinion, that some reason ought to have been given.

We cannot command our affections, nor can we resist our prejudices. It would have been manly, more, it would have been p——ly to have said,

" We have both our failings; I can-
" not help seeing yours in spite of all
" your good qualities. I will not, there-

" fore, torment you with my humors.
" We will part; and although I cannot
" love, I shall always honor you."

And if it was incumbent on the P——e so to have acted in the first instance, how much more did it become his BOUNDEN DUTY to have been explicit in avowing the real sentiments of his heart, when slander so virulently and so suddenly attacked her fame.

Hitherto, I contend, the errors of the P——ss, if any are proved against her, have been merely venial. To all who

view them dispassionately (and I may venture to assert that *all* includes the respectable majority of the kingdom) they must appear so.

Has it, then, been found necessary to INVENT ERRORS, to give them the blackest names, and then endeavour to inoculate them on this illustrious sufferer? I..... dare not reply to this appeal.

2d. "There is one blessing in wedded love, however, which with minds of sensibility proves a valuable resource against the horrors of seclu-

" sion. Mrs. George was the mother " of a daughter, whose dawning beau- " ties and seraphic smile might have " counteracted the malignancy of her " fate; but, alas! the *peculiar* feelings " of the lady were not susceptible of " attachment to a *daughter*; she hated " girls; but concealed her unnatural " prejudice under the hypocritical sem- " blance of maternal tenderness.

" Of the father she soon became " equally indifferent.—Pride rapidly " usurped the claims of affection, and " whatever of sensibility might have

" been in her nature, yielded to the " voice of vengeance."

Nature is so powerful an assertor of her rights over the human heart, that bosoms cold to the general sensibilities of the heart, will glow when heated by maternal fires.

An unnatural mother is a non-descript: and the peculiar situation to which the P——ss was reduced must have increased her affection for her infant, who was now her only consolation. If the testimony of all H. R. H.'s

household is deemed insufficient to establish this fact, the affection borne by the P——ss Charlotte to her amiable mother, notwithstanding their separation, is a conclusive proof of the tenderness with which the child was treated when more immediately under her parental care.

3d. " Mrs. George now sought " every opportunity to expose her hus- " band's delinquency. She appealed " publicly to her uncle—his father— " for redress. She drove through the " most frequented parts of the neigh-

" bourhood in an open landau, with her
" child, to excite compassion—pretend-
" ing a tenderness for the infant she
" was incapable of feeling. She fre-
" quented the theatre and subscription
" balls, to make her party strong against
" her husband, and studied every op-
" portunity, otherwise, to load him
" with obloquy.

" Two parties were immediately
" formed in the county. A few were
" staunch to their old bottle companion,
" but the many espoused the cause of
" the deserted bride; insomuch, that

" public huzzaings would often greet
" her appearance abroad.

" The old gentleman, anxious to re-
" store if possible his son to his niece,
" saw with infinite displeasure that she
" had adopted the mode of all others
" least calculated to promote their re-
" union. He remonstrated therefore,
" and engaged, on her promising to ob-
" serve a more moderate conduct, to
" mediate a reconciliation.

" In this laudible pursuit, however,
" he was foiled by the inconsistency of

" the lady, who made and unmade sti-
" pulations in proportion as she fancied
" she was regaining power; till at
" length the young squire refused to be
" any longer the plaything of a woman's
" caprices, and determined to renounce
" her for ever.

" Separate establishments," &c. &c.

However I feel inclined to pity the sufferings of the royal stranger, thus deserted in a foreign country, and bereft of every domestic bliss, I seek only to rescue her fame when it has been abused,

not to veil any error which may have been alleged against her.

I am, therefore, free to confess, that in the first stage of this unhappy business, when it would have been most amiable as well as most politic; when passive obedience would have been the severest reproach on the part of the P——ss; it is notorious that H. R. H. did oppose her popularity to that of the P——, and that resisting, perhaps with offended pride, the friendly mediation of the K——, who anxiously sought to restore family order, she widened to

the utmost stretch the existing breach, and engrafted a sentiment on the P——'s mind too harsh to be named, which has effectually destroyed every hope of future reconciliation.

But the worm trodden under foot will turn. If H. R. H.'s conduct was impolitic, it was natural. We may deplore the event; but cannot severely censure it.

And after all, really, I incline to think that H. R. H. was justified in continuing to frequent the Opera. She is extrava-

gantly fond of music. A box at the Opera house is the drawing room of a lady of fashion, where she may admit or reject visitors as she pleases. Etiquette did not permit her to go elsewhere, and there can be no law to condemn her to the penance of a convent in a country where convents are unknown, merely because it was not the P——'s whim, caprice, or some worse name, to live in domestic happiness with his wife.

4th. " About this time, however, an " accident happened which contributed

" not only to *lessen* Mrs. George in the " good opinion of her husband, but " even to alienate the regard of her " family, which hitherto had never " forsaken her.

" A parcel of letters, written in the " fulness, perhaps malignancy of her " heart, were by some accident inter- " cepted and conveyed to the manor " house, which proved the talents of " the fair writer to be of rather a dan- " gerous tendency. Her friends, how- " ever, glossed over the offence, and " with *peculiar* address removed the

" censure to the Squire on the score of " his intriguing with the attendant to " whom Mrs. George had committed " the parcel, and as an abettor of a " breach of confidence between a ser- " vant and her mistress.

" Thus the tide of obloquy still " pursued the young Squire, and his " neglect of SUFFERING INNOCENCE " continued to be the theme of general " reprehension: while the fair recluse, " in the repose of triumph, devoted " herself, as it was said, to works of

" fancy and other elegant domestic pur-
" suits."

I answer in the language of Shylock,

Shall I bend low, and in a bondman's key
With 'bated breath, and whispering humbleness,
Say this——
Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last,
You spurn'd me such a day;—another time
You call'd me dog—and for these courtesies
I'll lend you thus much monies?

Surely it was natural, most natural, that the Princess, in the agonies of disappointed love,

" With not a friend to meliorate her doom,
" With not a joy to sparkle thro' the gloom,
" Save the FAIR HOPE of whom her heart is proud,
" The youthful idol of the wond'ring croud;

Polypus.

should give vent to their poignancy by complaint. Her husband had deserted her in a foreign land, where *her* only connections, being *his*, had taken part against her. She complained in particular of her aunt, from whom she at least expected the soothings of friendship. In the neglect of that aunt was comprised the neglect of her lovely

cousins, etiquette forbidding them to have any feelings, but to move automatons at a superior's nod?

But to whom did she complain? not to her attendants; delicacy forbade the communication; and she obeyed its law. Her complaints were confined to her own family abroad. They were not couched in the language of revenge; but rather as mournful plaints against her fate.

"Alas!" she might have said, "you, "my dear parents, would have made

" me happy, and you made me great.
" How infinite the distinction. I am,
" 'tis true, the future Q—n of Eng-
" land, yet an exile in my own family.
" ..... I live in a gaudy prison.....
" My companions are chosen for me..
" .... My attendants set over me....
" I breathe by rule, and oppose patience
" to oppression.....
" .....

You, I, all of us would have done the same. And who is there to say that more than private communication was intended by this indulgence of sup-

pressed grief? The crime was not in the writing such letters; but in the base confederated minds who dared to violate the trust reposed in them; and for purposes most diabolical to expose them to the Q—n.

It is not, however, true, as alleged by Diogenes, that a packet of letters was by some accident intercepted and conveyed to the Manor house.

The packet was originally confided to a clergyman of strict honor, then travelling to the court of B——n, who

promised to deliver it with his own hand; but by intrigue, artifice, bribery, or blandishment, the packet was purloined from his custody he knew not how, and conveyed to court, nobody knew how: but there is a lady still in existence, who at the day of reckoning, and her account is large, will find this black transaction recorded against her in the character of living fire.

5th. " In the mean time, the infant " Charlotte displaying uncommon ca- " pacity was removed from the nursery, " and placed under the guardianship of

" proper tutors to embellish her person
" and understanding as the important
" heiress to the family fortunes.

" Deprived of the beloved society
" of this interesting companion, Mrs.
" George became sometime after the
" fond *patroness* of a pretty curly headed
" boy, whom, *as she stated*, she had
" taken from his poor parents to con-
" sole her for the loss of her *little darl-*
" *ing*.

" Charity is said to cover a multi-
" tude of sins, but in this instance it

" seemed rather to *uncover* a multitude " of offences.

" Certain whisperings aroused certain " conjectures; they engendered suspi- " cion; enquiry followed; and in pro- " cess of time conviction bid fair to " develope the parentage of the little " William."

I have conversed with high and low at G——h on this subject. William is there known to be the offspring of poor parents at Deptford, a pet it is true; but surely the circumstance is not sin-

gular. *He* is at least an *innocent* companion; and as the affections *must* have an object, this devotion is praiseworthy. It would be a waste of words to enlarge upon a fact so positive and so notorious.

6th. " Affairs now assumed a dif-
" ferent aspect.

" In the neighbourhood of the lodge
" lived a veteran soldier; not a veteran
" in years, but service, a veteran whom
" it is to be hoped this country will
" not easily forget; and whom it is

" impossible Buonaparte should ever
" cease to remember.

" Laurelled by his King, he sought
" repose in the arms of beauty, from
" the toilsome campaigns he had suf-
" fered abroad.

" The object of the gallant soldier's
" choice, however, was not so remark-
" able for her personal as her mental
" endowments; although the former
" are, by no means, free from captiva-
" tion. The new wedded pair chose
" their residence in the neighbourhood

" of the *widowed* Mrs. George, and " the ladies soon became extremely " intimate.

" Among the many who hastened " to congratulate Colonel Randolph on " his marriage, was his old friend Cap- " tain Smythe of the navy: these gen- " tlemen had often been companions in " the heat of battle, and as nothing " associates two noble hearts more firm- " ly than an equal participation of " danger, they loved each other as " brothers.

" Mrs. Randolph received the Cap-
" tain with the freedom of an old ac-
" quaintance, and introduced him to
" her friend Mrs. George, where he
" was likewise received on an intimate
" footing.

" But the Captain, though bred to
" the sea, and a rough sailor in the
" storm, possessed all the politeness of a
" well-bred gentleman in the drawing
" room. He was either the votary of
" love or war as occasion presented it-
" self, and soon distinguished Mrs.

" George as the object of his pointed " gallantry.

" Another twelve-month passed, " during which period the Captain made " frequent excursions to his friend's cot- " tage, where he domesticated as he " pleased. Mrs. Randolph became the " happy mother of a girl, and he proposed " himself as godfather to the infant, who " was named in compliment Smythe " Randolph.

" At length Mrs. Randolph, under- " standing from her servants that the

" Captain never slept at home, men-
" tioned it with expressions of surprise
" to the Colonel.

" And pray, my dear, what is that to
" you?" he replied good humoredly;
" Smythe is my other self, and by G—d
" he shall do just as he pleases in my
" house.

" This reproof was quite sufficient to
" silence Mrs. Randolph, but the more
" secretly the Captain endeavoured to
" conduct himself, the more he awaken-
" ed the curiosity of the servants, till it

" became the common topic of the " kitchen—' That Captain Smythe left " the cottage every night when he sup- " posed all the family at rest—muffled " in his boat cloak, and, protected by " a concealed hanger, took his course " across the Park.'

" Suddenly Mrs. George almost drop- " ped her visits at the cottage, and was " much less frequent than usual in her " invitations to the Park.

" One day the Colonel was strongly " alarmed with the receipt of an anony-

" mous letter written in a female cha-
" racter, and disclosing, as if in friend-
" ship to him, that an intrigue was on
" foot between his wife and Captain
" Smythe.

" He flew to the chamber of the
" latter with the libel in his hand, and
" presenting the superscription, demand-
" ed of the Captain if he knew the
" writing.

" Perfectly," was the reply.

" And the seal ?"

" Both are Mrs. George Roy's."

" Then read the contents."

" It is not easy to describe the horror " and indignation which filled his mind " on the occasion ; but turning to his " friend, and stifling his resentment, he " endeavoured, calmly, to say,

" We will not, for all this, Randolph, " cut each other's throats."

" No," replied the Colonel grasping the hand that was offered to him,

" we will not," but this is a most diabo-
" lical plot. We are known to have bled
" together, and to be irascible to a
" fault in points of honour..... Oh!
" Smythe, had I not known you as I do,
" to what a fatal error might this cursed
" scroll have led me!

" And your wife," interrupted the Captain, " has she no claims on your
" confidence? Fye, my friend, be more
" just to her merit on every occasion,
" and never yield a degenerate weakness
" to your passions at the instigation of
" any masked assassin of your future

" peace and honor. Let us coolly in-
" vestigate this business.

" Without detailing particulars, it
" may suffice to state, that the two
" friends became assured in their suspi-
" cion, Mrs. George *was* the author of
" the letter."

There cannot be the least doubt as to the fact of an anonymous letter having been received by an officer of distinction, *then* bearing an untarnished reputation, and the respect of his grateful country.

This gentleman and his wife were on habits of intimacy with the P——ss, and resided in a cottage within G—— park. H. R. H. had distinguished them by the most condescending marks of her esteem.

Does it therefore follow, that they must be the traducers of her honor?

That an officer and his lady should have been found so forgetful of their own characters as to asperse that of a superior, stamping the fact with the impression of their notorious intimacy

with H. R. H. for the base purpose of pampering the diabolical malignities of any human being whatever, would be extraordinary indeed!

I contend it is not credible that an honourable soldier should so descend from himself, or that a female, virtuous in herself, should not respect virtue in her sex, particularly when the object was already smarting with the anguished feelings of every domestic sorrow.

Who then is traduced?

The P——ss, or her accusers? Either party previous to this question, has stood on the basis of honor so firmly, that the decision should not be lightly given.

The anonymous letter, however, is here positively attributed to the P——ss, as if it were possible that any gentlewoman could have been the author of so infamous a production.

This letter does not contain any disclosure it was intended to convey *in language.* It envelloped an *hieroglyphic*

so expressive as not to be mistaken by any *who could bear to look upon it.*

In a letter before me addressed to the P——, I find the following appropriate passage.

" The origin of the odious insinua-
" tions that gave rise to the late delicate
" enquiry (as it has been most inaptly
" called) is reported to have been a letter
" signed by a gallant Baronet and his
" lady, in which the virtue of your
" august wife was most scandalously
" traduced. That such a letter was

" written no one has ventured to deny;
" but that any persons should have the
" effrontery to place their signature
" thereto, almost startles credibility;
" and yet it is equally incredible that the
" peace of an irreproachable princess
" should be doomed to experience an
" additional pang, and the purity of
" royal succession called in question
" upon no other foundation than a
" vile anonymous libel."

This appeal to H. R. H.'s feelings is manly, but not wholly correct. A letter certainly was written, which after-

wards became the ground-work of a commission to be noticed in its proper place; but it is not true that any one was hardy enough to affix his signature thereto.

These assertions are so little like evidence, and so much like malevolence, that the cloven foot must be apparent to every one.

7th. " Acts of ostentatious charity " had hitheto established Mrs. George's " reputation as the paragon of all earth- " ly goodness. Her servants were re-

" markable for preserving their places ;
" and had she been less beloved, it *might*
" have been observed by village gos-
" sips, that they were remarkably profuse
" and elegant in their expences. Be
" that as it may, the Colonel was pleased
" to give a new turn to the village con-
" versation by openly avowing his
" opinion of the lady's depravity.

" It was a bold effort..... all the
" world declaimed loudly against him
" as a monster..... the women almost
" hooted him, and shunned his amiable
" wife for the virtues they should have
" worshipped.

" The question became serious, the " Manor of Royfield had descended " from father to son in regular succes- " sion, though not exclusively entailed " on issue male: it was too consider- " able to be trifled with. The infant " Charlotte had been considered the " rightful heiress of these proud do- " mains, and Squire George trembled " with an honest pride when he was " told that a bastard son *born in marri-* " *age*, might by law supersede her " claim. A thousand passing tales aug- " mented his apprehensions on this " head.

" Mrs. George was described to be " *immoderately* fond of the boy William; " the little cottager had the parade and " attendance of a count attached to his " nursery; and when the carriage was " ordered to air the pretty pet abroad, " every care was taken ' that the winds " of Heaven should not too rudely " wanton o'er his cheek.'

" These and other circumstances " buzzed by report, occasioned the fa- " mily to assemble in debate on the " importance of the future inheritance " to be established in the Manor and " appendages.

" And here let me excite the admi-
" ration of the reader by declaring, that
" although the young squire would
" have been pleased to have rid himself
" of a *supernumerary* wife, he refused
" to be a party in these family consul-
" tations, resolving that the establish-
" ment of her guilt or innocence should
" not be weighed down by one atom of
" personal feeling or resentment.

" It would be hazardous to attempt
" detailing what *exactly* passed on this
" occasion, because it was never pub-
" lished; but I do not hesitate to aver,

" that the enquiry tended to criminate " the lady."

That the P——ss was beloved, is admitted even by her enemy: and, that she is beloved is admitted by the world at large; beloved, with an encreased affection proportioned to her unmerited sufferings.

She has been tried without a trial; is condemned without an accuser; for if the commission for inquiring into the reports tending to criminate H. R. H. was not, and so I understand it, coun-

tersigned by the K—g, it was a self-nominated commission, and consequently illegal. Incorrectness and mystery seem to have gone hand in hand, and a cruel delicacy has presided at the mock ceremony.

That all these steps have been taken *for the good of the nation*, without any interference on the part of the P——, is most true, and however his partizans may attempt to qualify this cruel forbearance, by what is called an exposition of the relative situation of the parties, and the reasons for commencing

" *The Delicate Inquiry ;*" it is all *vox et preterea nihil.*

" They may state* that it is impos-
" sible to say who is the blameable
" party for the distressing involvements
" of the two R—— P—— whose con-
" duct has been so freely the subject
" of public conversation ; that enough
" is not, and never may be before the
" public, whereby they may be enabled
" to form a correct judgment ; per-
" haps there may be faults on both
" sides ; perhaps scarcely any on either ;

* Vide Letter to Lord Moira.

" but that the contending dispositions
" of the royal parties may preclude a
" possibility of their living together in
" that harmony essential to domestic
" happiness; that from hidden causes,
" their R—— H.s's were living apart,
" when reports were circulated origi-
" nating in the imprudence of some
" unthinking people fond of a little
" scandal, that H. R. H. had been
" guilty of some levities or improper
" indiscretions, when a venerable noble-
" man, now just deceased, advised for
" the good of posterity and the satisfac-
" tion of the kingdom in general, as

" well as out of justice to the character " of H. R. H., that some inquiry should " be instituted into the *reports* of the " conduct of that R—— P——.

" Here every body must see the de- " licate situation in which the P—— " was placed, and how difficult it was " to know what to do: if he stirred " one way, or the other, in behalf of the " P——ss, or against her, he must be " equally subject to censure.

" If he exerted himself for her, the " nation might say, that it was an in-

" quiry instituted to satisfy posterity as
" to the succession, and he ought by
" no means to interfere :

" If he moved against her, of course,
" many people would say that he was
" trying to crush her by his political
" interest without just grounds.

" There can be no good reason given
" why H. R. H. ought not, nay, why
" he was not imperatively called on to
" be neuter. That H. R. H. should, in
" the delicate situation he was placed,
" be called on to act at all, is an insult

" to common sense, and every man who
" sees the least through an unjaundiced
" eye must perceive it."

I have detailed this opinion because it appears to be founded in reason; but, my friends, if it be the truth, it is not the whole truth.

I have no objection to the *correctness* of instituting an inquiry; nor do I condemn the *neutrality* of the P—— *pending* that inquiry. But I maintain that, the commission closed, THE P—— WAS BOUND TO GIVE THE NATION, WHOSE

RIGHT IT IS TO DEMAND, AN UNEQUIVOCAL REPORT OF THEIR PROCEEDINGS.

It was not even enough, considering the question of succession, if the P—— had said, "I ENTIRELY ACQUIT THE "P——ss." The people had a right to know why she was accused, by whom accused, and how guiltless.

As to the accusers, whoever they may be, the commissioners have adjudged the case referred to them; and if the gallant officer and his lady had written

the accusation scandalously ascribed to them, they would have been punishable for the libel; and it would be ridiculous to suppose they were protected by the P——. He could not protect them.

8th. "He who has been admitted to "a secret will always find some dear "friend or other to whose confidence "he anxiously imparts the trust: hence "the *grounds* on which I aver as fol- "lows:

"That Mrs. George had notorious "conveniences purposely erected to

" favor intrigue, and that her finances
" were considerably impaired in bribing
" her domestics to secrecy."

When the D—— of K—— waited on H. R. H. with an intimation of the inquiry about to take place; and that it would be necessary to examine her servants; it is a fact, admitted *even* by Diogenes, that she nobly exclaimed,

" From this moment I discharge all
" my household."

An order to this effect was given

on the instant; there was no time for bribery, and even if there had, and bribery had been practised, will any one believe, that out of the many persons necessary to the establishment of a P——ss, no one should be found unmindful of his trust.

On the contrary, I insist that the very mystery in which the affair has been involved would have set every tongue in motion.

There is a degree of self importance attached to the discovery of a secret

that little minds cannot resist; nay, if there had been secrets, they might have been *sold* at a high price; but no such tales were ever whispered among them. H. R. H.'s character stands as high as ever in the neighbourhood she ornaments.

9th. "That a *certain* officer of his "Majesty's navy was the *reputed* father "of the darling William by his *chaste* "patroness.

"That a *certain* miniature painter "had been detected one evening locked

" up in the eating parlor with her,
" when the hours flew swiftly on the
" soft pinions of love, and the enrap-
" tured pair forgot that it was supper
" time.

" As to Captain Smythe, it came out
" that the lady had cast off all reserve
" with him; *kissing him* as he took
" leave in her carriage, adjusting his
" frill in the drawing room, patting his
" cheek, and other *innocent* liberties, at
" which *English modesty* would *certainly*
" blush; but which are *perhaps* very
" reconcileable with the *indulgence* of
" *foreign customs.*"

These assertions contradict themselves. They contain a *positive accusation* of infidelity against H. R. H.; and although the commissioners appointed to inquire into *reports* had no power to try H. R. H. they had the power to state the evidence on which a trial might and would have been appointed. It was their duty, and we must either believe they failed in such duty, or that no accusation, or shadow of accusation, came before them.

10th. "It is worthy of remark, that "during the FASHION[illegible]LE SEPARATION

" originally existing between Squire " George and his wife, when they po- " litely visited each other occasionally " at their meals, and as politely retired " to separate beds, the *brutal* Squire as " he one day caressed his lovely infant, " of whom he was doatingly fond, took " occasion to find fault with the exu- " berant curls that floated o'er her " shoulders, and committed a rape upon " the auburn locks. This was set down " by Mrs. George as a *direct* insult to " her, who wished every body to *be-* " *lieve* she took infinite pleasure in " studying to improve her daughter's " beauty."

The most dangerous way of telling a story is so to mix truth with falsehood, that those who listen, knowing part of your tale to be correct, will readily give you credit for the whole.

The *fact* is as follows:

One morning as the P—— caressed the lovely infant on his knee, he could not avoid noticing the extreme beauty of her hair, and thanked Lady E—— for bestowing such *uncommon* pains in curling it to advantage.

" Your R. H. will thank the P—ss," replied Lady E——. " She takes pe-
" culiar pleasure in the arrangement you
" so much admire, and always performs
" the office with her own hand."

I could willingly conceal what follows.

The P—— sullenly borrowed Lady E——'s scissars, and cut off the admired lock.

11th. " At another time—when the
" chief residence of Mrs. George was
" removed to the Lodge, and she only

" occupied her apartment at the Squire's
" occasionally; the latter, on his driv-
" ing into the court-yard one morning,
" sent for an upholsterer to take down
" her bed.

" This was a new *brutality* that drew
" fresh odium on the Squire, who good-
" humoredly suffered malice to expend
" itself in invective, without even trou-
" bling the world with his motives.

" But it has since appeared, when the
" lady's levity subjected her conduct to
" inquiry, that she had compelled him

" to the act, by the situation in which
" she stood with the boy William; and
" that he was forbidden *in future*—by
" counsel learned in the law—to suffer
" his wife to sleep in the same house
" with him; and the more so, as Mrs.
" George contrived to lure the Squire
" into her apartment one night, when
" he was too much intoxicated to be
" aware of the folly he committed."

It was observed by my Lord Chesterfield, " that some men could deny a
" favor with a better grace, than others
" granted them." H. R. H. of all men

breathing could best substantiate this reasoning; and yet, forgetful of the common rules of politeness, he has permitted himself to commit an ungracious act, *with a want of decency* that will ever reflect upon his character.

If it be true that counsel learned in the law forbade their residence under the same roof, it is also true, that such advice could only have arisen from the improper conduct of H. R. H.; who, so far from having been lured into the apartment of the P——ss, forced his passage thither, at a moment frenzied by Cham-

paigne, and treated the affair so much like a *midnight adventure*, that his love evaporated with his wine, and he unceremoniously left her apartment when he awoke—NEVER TO RETURN!

This violation of her privacy, the P——ss next morning communicated, by letter, to the Q——, and there the affair dropped.

It will be admitted, I presume, that nothing could be more correct, or passive, than the P——ss's conduct under this outrageous insult to common decency.

12th. " Whatever might have been " the private wishes of the family in " thus calling a meeting of its relatives " to confirm, or disannul, the reports in " circulation, so seriously implicating " the virtue of Mrs. George—it was " found impossible to give concealment " to that meeting; and as the *particu-* " *lars* were—as I have stated—with- " held from the public, gossip eagerly " supplied the deficit.

" Rumors, reports, and fairy tales, " all calculated to inflame the public " mind against the young Squire, were

" most ingeniously fabricated through-
" out the neighbourhood; stating—
" among other things—that he, the
" Squire, with the aid and abetment of
" his friends, intimates, and depend-
" ents, did scandalously and maliciously
" enter into, and contrive, a most gross,
" vile, and scandalous conspiracy, tend-
" ing to vilify, and to distort, BY FIC-
" TION, the *innocent* liberties which Mrs.
" George had indulged during her re-
" tirement—the which were *found to be*
" perfectly correct, and correspondent
" with her mode of education—as well
" as to establish, ultimately—by perjury

" and subornation of perjury—high " crimes, and misdemeanors against the " Lady."

If rumors, reports, and fairy tales, grossly charging H. R. H. with conspiracy against his wife, have been fabricated, and afterwards circulated, who is to blame?

Not the P——ss; for she has entered into no conspiracy against her husband; but the P——, for suffering doubt to exist on a question that ought to be as public as the sun at mid-day. And al-

though no well-thinking persons can for an instant suppose H. R. H. has used indirect means, much less subornation, to criminate the P——ss; yet detraction will bait him, till silenced by facts that can admit only of one construction.

That the result of this secret investigation has been favorable to the P—ss every body does and will believe, although she may have indulged a freedom of manners "*found to be* perfectly "correct, and correspondent with her "mode of education." If the P—— thinks otherwise; let official reports

sanction the opinion; the public are not bigoted, but humane, in their judgements. Convince them that their opinion is ill founded, and humanity will change sides.

13th. "Meanwhile the little William became an object—if possible—of increased interest with his *tender-hearted* patroness, who would kiss him rapturously, as they gambolled together on the carpet, and assure him, he would some day or other make a great noise in Westminster Hall."

While the wickedness of invention was at work, I do not see that any incident more appropriate could have been well devised: but I should really be glad to know what the son of a poor woman at Deptford could have to do with this prediction; unless it is the P——ss's intention to bring up the boy to the bar, convinced, from experience, that to whomever the upper and the under shells may be adjudged, the oyster always falls to the share of the lawyer.

14th. "Charlotte had now attained "her eleventh year, and was the admi-

" ration of every body. Her proficiency in music, dancing, and drawing, was the theme of universal panegyric; but her studies were, by no means, confined to these outward, though elegant, accomplishments. Her mind was richly stored with literature, and the Graces seemed to have marked her for their own. She was a great favorite with all the family; but particularly so with her grandfather.

" The squire was proud in the possession of this beauteous treasure, and his family, more urgently than ever,

" sought how they could best preserve
" her birthright from future perplexi-
" ties.

" Another family meeting was con-
" vened, and the ablest law opinions
" taken as to the steps they should—in
" duty to this lovely child—pursue."

I venture to assert, without the least hesitation, that there can be but one opinion on the question of succession. There never has been a doubt on the subject till Diogenes was pleased to raise it; and God forbid there ever should be!

15th. "It may appear surprising "that no satisfactory information had "hitherto been obtained from the ser- "vants employed about the person of "Mrs. George; who must have known "*how things went on;* but if Mrs. "George paid them better for holding "their tongues, than others offered to "pay them for talking, *that* surprise is "easily removed.

"But—as will be seen—there were "engines at work as well to RESTORE, "as to PRESERVE the lady's reputation; "and it was contrived, by the following

" means, to *smuggle* her, once more, into
" the *apparent* protection of the family.

" Several meetings had taken place
" respecting Mrs. George's conduct,
" when the Squire was one morning
" very suddenly informed by the secre-
" tary, that the lawyers had given their
" final opinion on the case, and begging
" to know when he would be at leisure
" to receive the proceedings.

" The Squire was at his town resi-
" dence, and replied, ' Immediately.'

The new m——y actuated by the noblest sentiments, resolved to remove the unfavorable impressions that improperly hung over the P——ss. They accordingly procured a revival of the whole circumstances to be laid before the P—— C——, expediting their opinion thereon.

That opinion was given CONCLUSIVELY and FAVOURABLY to the P——ss. It was referred to the P—— by my Lord H——; and the P—— not having made any objection thereto, *probably because he could not*, my Lord H—— re-

peated to H— M—— at W—— that the P—— had not made any objection, and intimated, that as ALL DOUBT WAS REMOVED, the P——ss was entitled to re-appear at court, and that such re-appearance would be most grateful to the nation at large.

The K—— thereupon, signified H. R. pleasure that the P——ss be received at St. J——.

15th. " On delivery of these pa-
" pers, the secretary pressed to know
" when he might have the honor to
" call for the Squire's decision.

" ' That,' said the Squire ' cannot be
" so readily determined.'

" The secretary bowed and took
" leave.

" The *urgency* of this demand will
" appear to have been founded in good
" policy, and that Mrs. George *had*
" *found the way* to make the secretary
" her friend.

" An annual festival was soon to
" take place, at which it was the custom
" of the Manor to throw open its doors

" to visitors: Mrs. George had em-
" ployed every possible female artifice
" to force herself into this party, con-
" fiding in the popularity she still
" maintained in the neighbourhood,
" and feeling assured if her presence
" were *once so sanctioned by the family*,
" she might snap her fingers at the
" Squire, and set him and his lawyers
" at defiance."

It is certain that the P—— refused his decision to my Lord H——; the only alternative, therefore, vested in his Lordship was, to report the fact, " that

H. R. H. had not made any objections thereto."

H— M—— being thus released from every point of delicacy towards his son, argued as an honest man, thus,

The P—— C—— having denied that the charges brought against the P——ss are of a nature to subject H. R. H.'s conduct to a more severe investigation; and having dismissed the same as frivolous and vexatious; and the P—— seeing no fair reason to object to this conclusion, I command that H. R. H. the

P—— of W—— be informed that her presence will be acceptable at C—t.

All this is a simple, official, transaction, as sudden as it was just, and partakes too much of both to have been the effect of ANY PRIVATE INFLUENCE.

That this restoration of H. R. H. to unsullied fame was dear to the people, their united and repeated acclamations fully testified. Even the anti-rooms, crouded by nobility, echoed in defiance of C—t etiquette, with the cor-

dial plaudits of the company as the R—l *stranger* passed to the drawing room.

And what were the P——ss's feelings on this occasion?—Not those of triumph, but of gratitude.

Gratitude to a nation who supported an unprotected alien with its countenance in the hour of trial, and hailed her with rapture at the hour of acquittal!

16th. "And now the opportunity "was offered to her constant and zeal- "ous defenders to announce to the

" world a CONFIRMATION of Mrs.
" George's innocence. Indeed, these
" obliging scribblers had often *restored*
" her reputation by newspaper fiction;
" but NOW, ' Oh the thing was beyond
" all doubt.'

" To this latter sentence I subscribe
" most heartily. IT IS BEYOND ALL
" DOUBT; and I would advise the lady's
" best friends to remember the fallacy
" of appearances, and the language of
" the Poet,

" *Nor all that glisters gold.*"

" For nothwithstanding the public " enthusiasm follows the doubtful " stream, there may be found among " the crowd some cold blooded mora- " list, who, surveying the subject with " the eye of reason, and detailing it " with candour may exclaim,

" Where was the squire? Where his " younger brother? Where's Mrs. Fre- " derick? on this momentous occasion.

" Would not a *convinced* husband " *proudly* partake the restoration of a " wife's honour? Would not his rela-

" tives eagerly flock around an injured
" female to cheer her with their con-
" gratulations, and ornament her tri-
" umph with their presence ?

" Yet the warmest advocates of Mrs.
" George will surely find it very singu-
" lar that the Squire should chuse this
" *particular* day to drive to a neigh-
" bouring race course ; and that all his
" brothers except the one noticed as
" the lady's champion should also find
" particular enjoyments to prevent their
" partaking in this grand and national
" mental festival. Even the mild, ami-

" able, and humane Mrs. Frederick, who
" gives the tear of pity and the alms
" of benevolence to all suffering huma-
" nity, has felt herself in *propriety* com-
" pelled to stay at home on this occa-
" sion."

If any argument were wanting to convince the world of the injustice which has so long been done to this amiable and oppressed P——ss, it will be found here.

We see *private pique* exerting all its influence to cloud the brilliant triumph of H. R. H. We see every individual

of the P——'s family who could be, was kept away; but although this marked contempt shews great inhumanity, it also serves to prove that if *influence* could have prevented the P——ss's return to C—t, it would.

It proves that she was received in opposition to the *individual and collective* hatreds of the family; and it proves that this public acknowledgement of her innocence on the part of the Q— n in the presence of all her nobles, was an *extorted* compliment which THE SUPERIOR MAJESTY OF JUSTICE COMMANDED TO TAKE PLACE.

17th. "In all large families birth-days "are frequent. It so happened, then, "that within the month the birth-day "of Mrs. Roy claimed the annual "tributes of filial respect from her "children; on which occasion all the "family was accustomed to assemble "and pass their evening in private "cheerful mirth.

"Was it not then to be expected "that the *blackamoor washed white* "would be invited to the party?

"'Tis a comprehensive question; and "when I add that her husband and her

" daughter, his brothers and his sisters,
" were all assembled in commemora-
" tion of a beloved parent's birth, the
" marked absence of Mrs. George, *stu-*
" *diously* uninvited, speaks volumes to
" her disgrace."

To whose disgrace I will ask ?—Not that certainly of the persecuted innocent; but if disgrace must be the attendant of this insult, I incline to think most of my readers will attach it to an higher personage.

Was this a moment for the Q—n to remember the adventure of the inter-

cepted letters ?. . . . . Let others decide on the question, I *feel* I should reply to it harshly.

18th. " Afflictions of a domestic " nature also, about this time called, if " it had been possible to have attended " to the call, on the warmest consola- " tions from the family. Mrs. George " had recently lost her father."

The death of the D— of B—— was a national calamity. Every Englishman deplored the event, and if the sympathies of millions could have communi-

cated consolation to the P——ss, she would have been consoled.

This was impossible. The friendly task devolved upon her family connections in this country; who contented themselves with *mourning* for the dead, without attempting to soften the distresses of the living.

Such are c—y sensibilities!!!

19th. " On this melancholy occasion " it became the wish of her widowed " mother to return to England. She " expressed these wishes to her brother,

" and apartments were actually in pre-
" paration for her reception, but it
" would have been a severe addition to
" her domestic sorrows to have wit-
" nessed the disgrace of a fallen daugh-
" ter; she therefore deferred her re-
" turn."

This is a most unmanly perversion of facts. The D——ss of B—— has not given up her intention of revisiting her native country. Some private arrangements indeed have protracted her return, but her arrival is daily expected, and when she does come, it will be like a Roman Matron to bless the gods,

and to weep with joy over the triumphs of her child.

20th. " Her mourning habit on the " day she visited the family mansion, " her liveries, hammercloth, and trap- " pings of the same sable hue, aided by " certain well-assumed despondency of " manner, were *little* aids well calculated " to fill up the measure of her popula- " rity.

" Let us now canvas the spirit of " this popularity; what says the fashion- " able harbinger of scandal in behalf of " its favorite protegée?

The Morning Post, with a constancy truly honourable to the feelings of the Editor stated, on this occasion.

" That H. R. H. the P——ss of W—s
" had appeared at the drawing room,
" attended by her faithful friend Lady
" T—d, who had been remarkable in
" her attachment to her R—— friend
" from her arrival in this country; and
" more particularly so during her late
" sufferings.

" That H. R. H. the D— of C——
" awaited the arrival of his R—l rela-
" tion, whom he handed into the draw-

" ing room, and presented to the " Q——n.

" That the P——ss's arrival at the " garden gate was marked with gene- " ral and cordial demonstrations of joy; " her reception was truly flattering, and " the most distinguished among the " nobility awaited in the anti-rooms to " testify their heartfelt congratulations " as H. R. H retired from the presence.

" That the attentions of the D— of " C—— in persevering to mark his dis- " belief of the whole infamous fabrica- " tion, did equal honor to him as a

" p——, a brother, and a man. The
" attachment of Lady T——d though
" more humble, is not less exemplary.

" May these honors be lasting as they
" are just!—Such will ever be the wish
" of all who resent the calumnies which
" have been permitted to obscure the
" fair fame of the lovely stranger;
" and it will be equally their task to
" exert themselves in dispelling the
" clouds with which her exalted worth
" has been so arfully overcast.

" What a triumph to the P——ss!

" What an humiliation to her ene-
" mies !"

To which I say—AMEN!

21. " The unexpected appearance of
" Mrs. George, still on the arm of her
" amiable brother in-law, at the theatre
" in the evening, afforded the Editor of
" the same publication a new subject
" for his sublime admiration.

" He dwells *most feelingly* on the uni-
" versal raptures which the lady's
" presence communicated to every in-

" dividual bosom. He describes the
" public marks of cordial approbation
" that greeted her arrival, the impres-
" sive return made by Mrs. George who
" was MUCH AFFECTED with their good-
" ness in oppressing her with such flat-
" tering marks of general esteem so
" UNANIMOUSLY BESTOWED ! and
" concludes with assuring us, that al-
" though her dress was ornamented
" with a rich display of brilliant orna-
" ments, the LUSTRE OF RESTORED HO-
" NOR beamed round her person with
" a splendor exceeding all the pomp of
" outward decoration, and wholly eclips-
" ing the dazling blaze of her jewels.

"What a pity it is that Mrs. George "could not *likewise* get herself smug- "gled by hook or by crook to the "entertainment given in B—shire in "honor of Mrs. Roy's birth day! It "would have made so *pretty* a para- "graph, and would, I have no doubt, "have been inserted as GRATUITOUSLY "as all the former puffing paragraphs "so industriously and so loudly trum- "peting forth her praise."

What a shame, rather, let it be said, that the unfeeling conduct of her R—l relations has given this opportunity to a distempered mind so to descant on

the misfortunes of an amiable and deserted P——ss!

When the page of history shall record this event to after-ages; when party spirit and unnatural hatreds shall have no influence on the reader, and candor alone shall appreciate the act; how fallen will their characters appear in public estimation who thus deliberately could heap insult on injury, and mock the agonies they inflicted!

22. "Is the Squire dead to all feel-
"ing it may be asked, or above all
"praise, that he so supinely bears these

" indirect censures on himself, and for-
" bears when chastisement more direct
" is levelled at him by the united ma-
" lignancies of a host of anonymous
" writers?

" Neither!—content in the *conscious*
" rectitude of his conduct, he disdains
" either to purchase the praise or avert
" the scurrility of any venal scribbler:
" HE leaves to time the developement
" of circumstances, which by the bye
" have been as mysteriously withheld
" from public adjudication by either
" party.

" An official copy of the whole pro-
" ceedings was sent to Mrs. George;
" not very respectfully indeed, as the
" lawyer, whose office it was, most un-
" gallantly dispatched a livery servant
" with the sealed packet; when it is
" believed the lady thought it would
" have became him to have presented
" it in person."

Of the P——'s conscience, no one can so ably judge as himself. 'Tis a consoling monitor when speaking the language of approbation, but a fiend-like tormentor when it would awaken

the soul to compunction. Time *will* solve all doubts.

If it be true that the *then* L— H—— C——— of England has suffered the dignity of his situation to be tarnished by the littleness of servility; if gratitude to his R—l patron has made him forgetful of the decorum due to the sex, as well as the exalted character of the Personage thus insulted, it is *well* that his power has ceased.

I do not, however, credit the position.

An event almost as ungracious took place during the ministry of Lord North.

On the division of the house on a question relative to the commitment of Mr. Woodfall the printer for a libel, Mr. Fox, then at the Treasury Board, opposed the minister, who however carried the original motion with a great majority.

My Lord North was highly incensed at this dereliction of a member of his own board; a trifling explanation ensued, but an open rupture was the consequence; when the minister with *power-*

ful rudeness wrote the following note, which was delivered by a door keeper of the House to Mr. Fox in his place on the Treasury Bench.

" His Majesty has thought proper to order a new Commission of the Treasury to be made out, in which I do not perceive your name."

To the Hon. C. J. Fox. NORTH.

Still the object was not a lady!

23. " The packet, however, was " delivered. Give me leave then, DIS- " PASSIONATE READER! for to none

" other do I address myself, to ask this " simple question—

" Is there any law, usage, or custom " in Great Britain, so blessed in its " constitution! to prevent a female of " whatever rank, whose conduct has " become the subject of legal inquiry, " from laying before the public the " official result of that inquiry?

" I believe not; and when such is " favourable to the party *supposed* to be " aggrieved, I rather think I may ven- " ture to assert SHE WOULD PUBLISH " IT."

In private life, perhaps, this argument would hold. The liberty of the press affords the humblest individual an opportunity of exposing its wrongs, and appealing to the high tribunal of public justice in vindication of a wantonly insulted reputation; but P—— are guided by forms; and it would have been indelicate in the P——ss to publish minutes of an inquiry which neither the K—, the P——, nor the P—— C—— have *thought it necessary* to expose to the world.

That the latter respectable reference are satisfied in the irreproachability of

H. R. H.'s conduct, stands confessed by their intimation to H— M—— that it was her privilege to appear at court; a privilege not to be done away otherwise than by indecorous conduct, of which they fully acquitted the R—— P——.

How, then, could the P——ss order the minutes to be printed? It would tacitly argue a doubt as to the justice of the nation which has so humanely supported her against every envenomed slanderer.

The *doubt* is with ourselves.

24. " Economy is no apology for " withholding it, as any bookseller " would do well to give a thousand " guineas, perhaps two for such a " manuscript."

Every body will certainly smile at the ridiculous point of view in which this last paragraph is placed. The P——ss of W——s driving through Paternoster Row, offering her Justification to the *liberality* of the trade, or setting the whole Row by the ears while knocking it down to the best bidder !

Diogenes proceeds to exculpate the

P—— from the odium this mysterious Investigation has gathered round him, and sums up his own motives in the following singular words:

" I have learnt to think for myself, " and despise the prevalent machinery " by which persons of fashion are " moved, as to action and opinion, like " the puppets of a fantoccini, by any " eccentric idiot of rank who has just " genius enough to new-model a cap or " a trinket; and arrogates from thence, " the supremacy of SHOWMAN to the " fashionable croud, pointing at whom

" it shall be lawful to admire, whom " condemn."

I confess that those circles which are called HAUT-TON, are altogether beyond my migrations. My researches are more immediately connected with LITTLE-TON, and my acquaintance more confined to the gloom of my chambers, than the splendors of a fashionable gala; but persons of rank seek my advice, although careless of my company, and I have been accustomed to find good sense not incompatible with title.

That follies characterise a certain description of persons is most true; and

when those persons are of rank, they excite our ridicule. But the misfortune is, they pervade other orders of society, whom they make contemptible.

No citizen is independant of public good opinion: it is the sinew of trade: the bond of confidence.

In a P—— it is more; it conciliates the esteem of a brave and generous people, without which, R——y is little more than a stalking horse.

I shall now say a few words on a postscript that has been added to the

second edition of the above work, and conclude with general observations.

" Now the simple fact is, that on the " morning of the day alluded to, the " Squire breakfasted with his father, " mother, and sisters, who were joined " by all the rest of the family, except- " ing the invalid; and Mrs. George, who " was NOT invited to the party.

" The Squire was attended on his " return home to dress by all these " brothers, excepting Mr. Ernestus, the " former champion of Mrs. George;

" from whence he returned at so unusu-
" ally early an hour as a little past one
" to join his mother in her drawing
" room, continuing at her side till near
" three; when the expected arrival of
" Mrs. George hurried him from his
" post; so that he POSITIVELY left the
" house without seeing, and conse-
" quently without conversing with his
" wife, who had been obliged to borrow
" a room to dress from her friend Mrs.
" Sheffelde, pending the arrangement of
" apartments in the neighbourhood of
" K——n.

" The deductions from the foregoing

" statement are so simple and positive,
" that no argument is necessary to
" their elucidation.

" The Squire would not suffer any
" circumstance to prevent his paying
" those respectful attentions to his
" father which the day claimed. He
" therefore, as did his brothers, obeyed
" the grateful feelings of his heart, as
" well publicly as privately; but *did so*
" *in a manner which should have pre-*
" *cluded all possibility of its being supposed*
" *that* HE *approved the visit of his wife on*
" *the same occasion.* Yet the town talk
" has stated the reverse of this fact;

" and ladies of distinction, even, who " were present on the occasion have " corroborated these false statements, " by declaring they saw and heard the " Squire and his wife converse together."

I have taken very particular pains to be assured on the subject of these latter remarks, and believe, knowing my opinion to be general, that the P—— and P——ss were both at court at the same time, and that they conversed together.

At all events the reception afforded to H. R. H. by the Q—n, the affability

with which she was acknowledged by the P——ses, and the unparallelled enthusiasm of the c—t; are evidence combined with the decision of the P—— C——, not to be controverted by the eloquence of an E—— or the effrontery of a G——: they are evidence as powerful as the seal on Shylock's bond, which I hold up to Diogenes:

"Till thou cans't rail the seal from off my bond,
"Thou but offends't thy lungs to speak so loud."

If it be true that the P——ss was forbidden at W— house, and denied a passage through the court yard of C—— house, and it is certain that she

dressed at Lady S——d's, it argues a wantonness in the oppressor at which humanity must shudder; it shews a bitterness of mind at which a P——must blush within the retirement of his closet; it betrays a want of justice, which an honourable people must impeach with their voices and detest in their hearts.

Whether this mysterious Investigation will ever be suffered to appear more circumstantially before the public, is a doubt beyond my casuistry.

But if it does not, all the continent of Europe will feel the act to be an infring-

ment on the sacred laws of a country, whose constitution has hitherto been the general theme of envy and admiration among all polished nations.

They will feel that civil, or moral wrong may be tried in England without an open court and free discussion: they will feel that a subject may be arraigned without being either condemned or acquitted: they will feel that slander may heap injuries on the innocent, without being amenable to chastisement!

"Our ancestors*, as an infallible

* Sir Matthew Hale Hist. Com. Law. Eng. p. 169, note E. p. 148.

method of discovering truth and of guarding against deception, appealed to Heaven, and referred every point in dispute to be determined, as they imagined, by the decisions of unerring wisdom and impartial justice.

" The person accused, in order to prove his innocence, submitted in some cases to trial, by plunging his arm in boiling water; by lifting a red hot iron with his naked hand; by walking barefoot over burning ploughshares; or by other experiments equally perilous and formidable.

" On other occasions he challenged his accuser to fight him in single combat. All these various forms of trial were conducted with many devout ceremonies; the ministers of religion were employed, the Almighty was called upon to interpose for the manifestation of guilt and for the protection of innocence; and whoever escaped unhurt or came off victorious, was pronounced to be acquitted by the judgment of God*.

* Murat. Dissertatio de Judiciis Dei. Antiq. Ital. vol. 3, p. 12.

"Among all the whimsical and absurd institutions which owe their existence to the weakness of human reason; this, which submitted questions that affected the property, the reputation, and the lives of men to the determination of chance, or of bodily strength and address, appears to be the most extravagant and preposterous.

"There were circumstances, however, which led the nations of Europe to consider this equivocal mode of deciding every point in contest as a direct appeal to Heaven, and a certain method of discovering its will.

" As men are unable to comprehend the manner in which the Almighty carries on the government of the universe, by equal, fixed, and general laws, they are apt to imagine, that in every case which their passions or interest render important in their own eyes, the Supreme Ruler of all *ought* visibly to display his power, in vindicating innocence and punishing vice.

" It requires no inconsiderable degree of science and philosophy to correct this popular error. But the sentiments prevalent in Europe during the dark

ages, instead of correcting, strengthened it.

" Religion for several centuries consisted chiefly in believing the legendary history of those saints whose names croud and disgrace the Roman kalendar. The fabulous tales concerning their miracles had been declared authentic by the bulls of Popes and the decrees of councils; they made the great subject of the instructions which the clergy offered to the people, and were received by them with implicit credulity and admiration.

" By these, men were accustomed to believe that the established laws of nature might be violated on the most frivolous occasions; and were taught to look rather for particular and extraordinary acts of power under the Divine administration, than to contemplate the regular progress and execution of a general plan.

" One superstition prepared the way for another; and whoever believed that the Supreme Being had interposed miraculously on those trivial occasions mentioned in Legends, could not but

expect his intervention in matters of greater importance, when solemny referred to his decision*.

"The common law very early declared against trial by ordeal, or *vulgaris purgatio*, as being the fabric of the devil†. Upon this authority, though the canons themselves were of no validity in England, it was thought proper to disuse and abolish this mode of trial en-

* Blackstone's Comm. lib. 4. cap. 27.

† Cum sit contra præceptum Domini, non tentabis Dominum Deum tuum. Decret. part 2. cant. 2, qu. 5, dist. 7. Decret. lib. 3, lit. 50, c. 9, and Spelm. Gloss. 435.

tirely in our courts of justice by an act of Parliament‡ according to Sir Edward Coke§, or rather by an order of the King in council ‖."

Such was the vulgar error and such the superstitious evidence of our unlightened ancestors; but with succeeding ages, succeeding forms of government have established new, and ameliorated old, regulations to the dignity of the law and the honor of the king-

‡ 3 Hen. III.

§ 9 Rep. 32.

‖ 1 Rym. Fœd. 228. Spelm. Gloss. 326. 2 Pryn. Rec. Append. 20 Eadm. fol. 48.

dom. Learning has removed obscurity from our ancient records, which, as they have passed through improving hands, have acquired a polish as well as value, that proudly ornaments our constitutional code.

The fiery ordeal is superseded by a jury of twelve men, peers of the accused, whose *united* voice condemns or acquits. Every subject is equally amenable to this glorious test of conscience; in which character the P——ss is equally exposed to trial with the poorest individual of the realm.

If then she has erred, why not try her by *her* peers?

If she be guilty, why not proclaim that guilt?

If falsely accused, why not bring to punishment the base assassins of her fame?

The honor of the nation, jealous of its future Q——, demands the explanation!

The partizans of the P—— jealous of *his* honor, wish this explanation!

Humanity weeps, our insulted laws tremble, and public confidence is hastening into exile!

THE END.

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